



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 328

January Session, 2013

House Bill No. 6494

House of Representatives, April 3, 2013

The Committee on Transportation reported through REP. GUERRERA of the 29th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING DRIVERS' SCHOOLS AND ADULT INSTRUCTION PERMITS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 14-36 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
3 *October 1, 2013*):

4 (b) (1) A person eighteen years of age or older who does not hold a
5 motor vehicle operator's license may not operate a motor vehicle on
6 the public highways of the state for the purpose of instruction until
7 such person has applied for and obtained an adult instruction permit
8 from the commissioner. Such person shall not be eligible for an adult
9 instruction permit if such person has had a motor vehicle operator's
10 license suspended or revoked. An adult instruction permit shall entitle
11 the holder, while such holder has the permit in his or her immediate
12 possession, to operate a motor vehicle on the public highways,
13 provided such holder is under the instruction of, and accompanied by,
14 a person who holds an instructor's license issued under the provisions

15 of section 14-73 or a person twenty years of age or older who has been
16 licensed to operate, for at least four years preceding the instruction, a
17 motor vehicle of the same class as the motor vehicle being operated
18 and who has not had his or her motor vehicle operator's license
19 suspended by the commissioner during the four-year period preceding
20 the instruction. (2) A person holding a valid out-of-state motor vehicle
21 operator's license may operate a motor vehicle for a period of thirty
22 days following such person's establishment of residence in
23 Connecticut, if the motor vehicle is of the same class as that for which
24 his or her out-of-state motor vehicle operator's license was issued. (3)
25 No person may cause or permit the operation of a motor vehicle by a
26 person under sixteen years of age. (4) No motor vehicle operator's
27 license shall be issued to any applicant who holds an adult instruction
28 permit before such applicant (A) has successfully completed not less
29 than ten clock hours of behind-the-wheel, on-the-road instruction
30 under the instruction of a person who (i) holds an instructor's license
31 issued under the provisions of section 14-73, or (ii) is twenty years of
32 age or older, has been licensed to operate a motor vehicle for at least
33 four years preceding the instruction and whose motor vehicle
34 operator's license was not suspended by the commissioner during such
35 four-year period, and (B) submits to the department, with such
36 applicant's application for a motor vehicle operator's license, a written
37 statement signed by such instructor attesting that such applicant has
38 successfully completed the behind-the-wheel, on-the-road instruction
39 requirements established in this subdivision. (5) The commissioner
40 shall not issue a motor vehicle operator's license to any applicant
41 holding an adult instruction permit before such applicant (A) has held
42 such permit for ninety days or more, or (B) has held such permit for
43 forty-five days or more and completed a state-approved driving
44 course.

45 Sec. 2. Subdivision (1) of subsection (d) of section 14-36 of the
46 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
47 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2013*):

48 (d) (1) No motor vehicle operator's license shall be issued to any

49 applicant who is sixteen or seventeen years of age unless the applicant
50 has held a youth instruction permit and has satisfied the requirements
51 specified in this subsection. The applicant shall (A) present to the
52 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles a certificate of the successful
53 completion (i) in a public secondary school, a state technical high
54 school or a private secondary school of a full course of study in motor
55 vehicle operation prepared as provided in section 14-36e, (ii) of
56 training of similar nature provided by a licensed drivers' school
57 approved by the commissioner, or (iii) of home training in accordance
58 with subdivision (2) of this subsection, including, in each case, or by a
59 combination of such types of training, successful completion of: Not
60 less than forty clock hours of behind-the-wheel, on-the-road
61 instruction for applicants to whom a youth instruction permit is issued
62 on or after August 1, 2008; (B) present to the commissioner a certificate
63 of the successful completion of a course of not less than eight hours
64 relative to safe driving practices, including a minimum of four hours
65 on the nature and the medical, biological and physiological effects of
66 alcohol and drugs and their impact on the operator of a motor vehicle,
67 the dangers associated with the operation of a motor vehicle after the
68 consumption of alcohol or drugs by the operator, the problems of
69 alcohol and drug abuse and the penalties for alcohol and drug-related
70 motor vehicle violations; and (C) pass an examination which may
71 include a comprehensive test as to knowledge of the laws concerning
72 motor vehicles and the rules of the road in addition to the test required
73 under subsection (c) of this section and shall include an on-the-road
74 skills test as prescribed by the commissioner. At the time of application
75 and examination for a motor vehicle operator's license, an applicant
76 sixteen or seventeen years of age shall have held a youth instruction
77 permit for not less than one hundred eighty days, except that an
78 applicant who presents a certificate under subparagraph (A)(i) or
79 subparagraph (A)(ii) of this subdivision shall have held a youth
80 instruction permit for not less than one hundred twenty days and an
81 applicant who is undergoing training and instruction by the
82 handicapped driver training unit in accordance with the provisions of
83 section 14-11b shall have held such permit for the period of time

84 required by said unit. The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall
 85 approve the content of the safe driving instruction at drivers' schools,
 86 high schools and other secondary schools. Subject to such standards
 87 and requirements as the commissioner may impose, the commissioner
 88 may authorize any drivers' school, licensed in good standing in
 89 accordance with the provisions of section 14-69, or secondary school
 90 driver education program authorized pursuant to the provisions of
 91 section 14-36e, to administer the comprehensive test as to knowledge
 92 of the laws concerning motor vehicles and the rules of the road,
 93 required pursuant to subparagraph (C) of this subdivision, as part of
 94 the safe driving practices course required pursuant to subparagraph
 95 (B) of this subdivision, and to certify to the commissioner, under oath,
 96 the results of each such test administered. Such hours of instruction
 97 required by this subdivision shall be included as part of or in addition
 98 to any existing instruction programs. Any fee charged for the course
 99 required under subparagraph (B) of this subdivision shall not exceed
 100 [one hundred twenty-five dollars, unless the comprehensive test as to
 101 knowledge of the laws concerning motor vehicles and the rules of the
 102 road is also administered, in which case the fee shall not exceed] one
 103 hundred fifty dollars. Any applicant sixteen or seventeen years of age
 104 who, while a resident of another state, completed the course required
 105 in subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, but did not complete the safe
 106 driving course required in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision, shall
 107 complete the safe driving course. The commissioner may waive any
 108 requirement in this subdivision, except for that in subparagraph (C) of
 109 this subdivision, in the case of an applicant sixteen or seventeen years
 110 of age who holds a valid motor vehicle operator's license issued by any
 111 other state, provided the commissioner is satisfied that the applicant
 112 has received training and instruction of a similar nature.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	October 1, 2013	14-36(b)
Sec. 2	October 1, 2013	14-36(d)(1)

TRA *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

There is no fiscal impact to the state or municipalities to require motor vehicle operators who hold an adult instruction permit to complete ten hours of on the road driving instruction before being issued a driver's license.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 6494*****AN ACT CONCERNING DRIVERS' SCHOOLS AND ADULT INSTRUCTION PERMITS.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill prohibits the motor vehicles commissioner from issuing a driver's license to anyone age 18 or older who has an adult instruction permit unless the applicant has (1) successfully completed 10 hours of behind-the-wheel instruction and submitted, along with the application, a written statement, signed by his or her instructor, attesting to the successful completion of the instruction and (2) held the permit for at least (a) 90 days or (b) 45 days and completed a state-approved driving course. Current law does not say for how long someone age 18 or older must hold an adult instruction permit before applying for a license.

Under the bill, the behind-the-wheel instruction must be given by a (1) licensed driving instructor or (2) driver age 20 or older licensed for at least four years preceding the time of instruction whose license was not suspended during that period.

The bill also sets a maximum \$150 fee for the safe driving practices course that 16- and 17-year-old driver's license applicants must take. Current law sets a maximum \$125 fee for the course, but allows a fee of up to \$150 if the course includes the testing on comprehensive knowledge and rules of the road required for a license. By law, the safe driving practices course must be at least eight hours long, and include at least four hours on the dangers of, and penalties for, driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, and of the risks of alcohol and drug abuse.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2013

BACKGROUND***Adult Instruction Permit***

PA 12-81 requires people age 18 or over seeking a driver's license to obtain an adult instruction permit before driving on a public road. When driving, the permit holder must have the permit in his or her immediate possession and be under the instruction of a (1) licensed driving instructor or (2) person age 20 or older who has held a driver's license for at least four years and has not had it suspended during the four years before teaching the permit holder.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Transportation Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 33 Nay 1 (03/15/2013)